

Reviewed by DPMO

IAW 50 USC 435 Note & DOD 5400.7-R

Date: 12-Jan-2006 Initialed By: R. W.

UNCLASSIFIED

HEADER

R 091519Z JAN 06

FM SECDEF WASHINGTON DC//DPMO//

TO RUEHMO/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

INFO RCCEKEV/KYIV

RHEFLGX/SAFE WASHINGTON DC

RHEFDIA/DIA WASHINGTON DC

RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHINGTON DC

RHMFIUU/CDR JPAC HICKAM AFB HI

ZEN/OSD DPMO

ZEN/JOINT STAFF WASHINGTON DC @ JOINT STAFF(SC)

BT

CONTROLS

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 5

/***** THIS IS A COMBINED MESSAGE *****/

BODY

SUBJ: DPMO-JCSD AUGUST 9 TO AUGUST 12, 2005 SOVIET VIETNAM VETERAN

INTERVIEW TRIP, KHARKIV, UKRAINE

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INTERVIEW TRIP, KHARKIV, UKRAINE

REF D): U.S. PERSONNEL MISSING, SOUTHEAST ASIA (PMSEA) ALPHA,

CHRONOLOGICAL AND REFNO REPORTS, DEFENSE PRISONER OF WAR/MISSING

PERSONNEL OFFICE (DPMO) REFERENCE DOCUMENT

SUMMARY: FROM AUGUST 9 TO AUGUST 12, 2005 DPMO-JCSD REPRESENTATIVES

DR. JAMES CONNELL AND MSG MICHAEL LUNINI VISITED KHARKIV, UKRAINE.

THE PURPOSE OF THE VISIT WAS TO INTERVIEW FORMER SOVIET VIETNAM WAR VETERANS RESIDING IN THE KHARKIV REGION.

1. JOINT COMMISSION SUPPORT DIRECTORATE (JCSD) REPRESENTATIVES TRAVELED TO KHARKIV, UKRAINE TO INTERVIEW SOVIET VIETNAM WAR VETERANS. WHILE IN KHARKIV, THE TEAM WAS ASSISTED BY COL (RET) NIKOLAY ANATOLIYEVICH SHERSHNEV, A PROFESSOR AT THE KHARKIV AIR FORCE UNIVERSITY, WHO ARRANGED THE INTERVIEWS AND WHO, AS A VIETNAM WAR VETERAN, WAS ALSO INTERVIEWED.

2. ON AUGUST 10, 2005, JCSD PERSONNEL INTERVIEWED SIX VIETNAM WAR VETERANS AT THE MOSCOW REGION MUSEUM OF WARRIOR-INTERNATIONALISTS IN KHARKIV. THE VETERANS WERE FILMED DURING THE INTERVIEWS AND COPIES OF THE TAPES WERE PROVIDED TO JCSD AND TO THE AIR FORCE UNIVERSITY S HISTORY DEPARTMENT. NIKOLAY NIKOLAYEVICH OVCHARENKO (KHARKIV, YURYEVS KAYA STREET, 7, TEL: (057) 732-3959), THE MUSEUM DIRECTOR AND CHAIRMAN OF KHARKIV S MOSCOW REGIONAL COUNCIL OF VETERANS PERMITTED THE TEAM TO FILM THE INTERVIEWS IN THE MUSEUM S MAIN DISPLAY ROOM.

OASD DPMO	
Date Received	9 Jan 06
Watch Officer	R
Distro	Act / Info
Director	
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Connell	
Lunini	
Rosen	
Shipp	
Thompson	

Brown - Analyst
Bentley - Analyst
Finney, A.T. 0412
Kwortnik, J.C. 0417
Boyd, C.E. 0310
Brannstrom, A.L. 0312
Broderick, J.W. 0429
Franklin, C.E. 0430
Brant, J.W. 0431
Singer, D.M. 0432
McNish, T.M. 0445
Bliss, R.E. 0446
Waters, S.E. 0547

(b) (3)

Brozolt, M.L. - 0417 | Welch, R.J. - 0566 | Rissi, D.L. - 1953
Windell, J.H. Jr. - 0418 | Martin, R.L. - 0568 | Ferguson, W.L. -
Pyle, T.S. II - 0419 | Storey, T.G. - Simpson, R.T. -
Son Juck, R.J. - Wand, R.J. - 1952 | Johnson, R.E. -
Gideon, M.S. - 0420 | [Redacted] | Contain, R.G. -

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(JCSD NOTE: OVCHARENKO IS A DISABLED SOVIET AFGHAN WAR VETERAN.)
THE FOLLOWING VETERANS WERE INTERVIEWED:

A. NIKOLAY ANATOLIYEVICH SHERSHNEV: COL (RET) SHERSHNEV (KHARKIV, PROSPEKT AKADEMIKA PAVLOVA 309-B, APT. 116, TEL: (0572) 68-90-42) HAS WORKED AS A PROFESSOR AND AN ANTI-AIRCRAFT MISSILE SPECIALIST AT THE AIR FORCE UNIVERSITY IN KHARKIV FOR NEARLY FIFTY YEARS. (JCSD NOTE: UNTIL RECENT REORGANIZATION, THE UNIVERSITY WAS KNOWN AS THE MARSHAL GOVOROV AIR DEFENSE RADIO-ENGINEERING ACADEMY.)

COL SHERSHNEV SERVED IN THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM (DRV) FROM 1968 TO 1969. SHERSHNEV WAS TASKED WITH ANALYZING PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED BY THE S-75 (JCSD NOTE: SA-2 GUIDELINE) MISSILE SYSTEMS DURING COMBAT OPERATIONS. PART OF THIS TASK INVOLVED RESTORING THE MISSILE SYSTEMS TO OPERATION AFTER THEY WERE DAMAGED BY U.S. BOMBING RAIDS. SHERSHNEV CLAIMED THAT EXCEPT FOR OCCASIONAL VISITS TO HANOI, HE LIVED AT THE MISSILE SITES. (JCSD NOTE: THIS CLAIM CONTRADICTS WHAT OTHER SOVIET VETERANS ENGAGED IN THIS PARTICULAR ACTIVITY HAVE TOLD JCSD IN PREVIOUS INTERVIEWS. ACCORDING TO VETERANS WORKING THE SAME MISSION AS SHERSHNEV, THEY WERE BILLETED IN THE VILLAGE OF KIM LIEN AND TRAVELED TO THE MISSILE SITES.)

SHERSHNEV SPENT MUCH OF THE INTERVIEW DISCUSSING HIS FIGHTS WITH THE BUREAUCRACY, DIFFICULTIES IN GETTING THE VIETNAMESE TO GIVE HIM FRAGMENTS FROM U.S. MISSILES TO STUDY, AND THE HARSH LIVING CONDITIONS IN VIETNAM.

IN MID-AUGUST 1968, SHERSHNEV WAS GIVEN PERMISSION BY THE SOVIET SENIOR ADVISOR ON MISSILE SYSTEMS IN VIETNAM, COLONEL NIKOLAY ILLARIONOVICH KULBAKOV TO BE PRESENT AT THE INTERROGATION OF A CAPTURED AMERICAN FLYER THAT HAD BEEN SHOT DOWN AT THE END OF JULY/BEGINNING OF AUGUST 1968 IN THE REGION OF VINH BETWEEN THE 18TH AND 19TH PARALLELS.

(JCSD NOTE: GEN MAJ (RET) KULBAKOV WAS THE SENIOR AIR DEFENSE ADVISOR TO THE DRV FROM 1967 TO 1968. HE ALSO SERVED AS THE LEADER OF A SPECIAL GROUP TASKED WITH RESEARCHING THE CAUSES FOR THE LOW SA-2 COMBAT EFFICIENCY RATE THE SOVIETS WERE EXPERIENCING IN THE DRV.

KULBAKOV IS DECEASED AND WAS NOT INTERVIEWED BY JCSD PERSONNEL.) SHERSHNEV CLAIMED THAT PRIOR TO THE INTERROGATION HE WROTE DOWN TWO QUESTIONS REGARDING RADAR JAMMING DEVICES ON THE PLANE. THE POW ANSWERED THE QUESTIONS WHICH WERE CONVEYED TO SHERSHNEV BY A VIETNAMESE-RUSSIAN TRANSLATOR. SHERSHNEV COULD NOT RECALL THE NAME TO THE TRANSLATOR NOR ANY OF THE OTHER VIETNAMESE OFFICERS PRESENT. ACCORDING TO SHERSHNEV, THE INTERROGATION WAS HELD AT THE GENERAL STAFF HEADQUARTERS OF THE AIR FORCE AND PVO IN HANOI. VIETNAMESE IN QUASI-UNIFORMS WITHOUT RANK INSIGNIA CONDUCTED THE INTERROGATION.

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SHERSHNEV CLAIMED HE STOOD BEHIND A SCREEN DURING THE INTERROGATION AND WAS UNABLE TO PROVIDE A PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION OF THE AMERICAN. SHERSHNEV ALSO CLAIMED TO NOT KNOW THE FATE OF THE PILOT FOLLOWING THE INTERROGATION.

SHERSHNEV STATED THAT ALTHOUGH THIS WAS THE ONLY INTERROGATION HE PERSONALLY ATTENDED, HE REGULARLY RECEIVED INTERROGATION EXCERPTS PERTAINING TO HIS WORK. SHERSHNEV COULD NOT PROVIDE INFORMATION CONCERNING PERSONNEL INVOLVED IN OTHER INTERROGATIONS. HIS HAND WRITTEN REMARKS ON THIS INTERROGATION HAVE BEEN PROVIDED TO THE JCSD TFR LIBRARY.

SHERSHNEV PREVIOUSLY DENIED HAVING CONTACT WITH AMERICAN POWS (REF B). ACCORDING TO REF B, SHERSHNEV WAS GIVEN THE OPPORTUNITY TO GO TO HANOI FOR RELAXATION AND CONSULTATIONS. HE WAS PERMITTED TO SWIM IN THE PRESIDENTIAL POOL AND STAY AT THE KIM LIEN HOTEL, WHICH WAS NOT FAR FROM THE POW COMPOUND. EXCEPT FOR OCCASIONAL SIGHTINGS OF POWS IN TRANSIT OR EXERCISING, HE HAD NO CONTACT WITH POWS.

(JCSD NOTE: THIS IS THE THIRD TIME JCSD PERSONNEL HAVE INTERVIEWED SHERSHNEV. HIS STORY HAS SIGNIFICANTLY CHANGED WITH EACH INTERVIEW. THE INTERVIEW CONDUCTED ON AUGUST 10, 2005 IS MORE IN LINE WITH HOW SOVIETS WOULD HAVE PARTICIPATED IN INTERROGATIONS OF AMERICAN POWS HELD BY THE NORTH VIETNAMESE. HOWEVER, IT IS APPARENT THAT SHERSHNEV IS NOT BEING ENTIRELY FORTHCOMING IN HIS DESCRIPTION OF THE EVENTS

/***** BEGINNING OF SECTION 2 *****/

INTERVIEW TRIP, KHARKIV, UKRAINE

CONNECTED WITH THE INTERROGATION. IT IS HIGHLY PROBABLE THAT THE NORTH VIETNAMESE WOULD HAVE PROVIDED THE SOVIETS [INCLUDING SHERSHNEV] WITH BIOGRAPHICAL BACKGROUND ON THE AMERICAN PRISONER. THIS BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION SHOULD HAVE INCLUDED THE PRISONER S NAME, RANK, UNIT, ECONOMIC BACKGROUND, POLITICAL BACKGROUND, AND OTHER INFORMATION THEY BELIEVED COULD BE BENEFICIAL FOR THEIR INTERROGATORS TO EXPLOIT. ADDITIONALLY, SHERSHNEV, AN EXPERT ON MISSILE SYSTEMS, WOULD HAVE BEEN SUMMONED TO PARTICIPATE IN AN INTERROGATION ONLY IF THE NORTH VIETNAMESE KNEW THE AMERICAN PRISONER WOULD BE ABLE TO PROVIDE HIM WITH USEFUL INFORMATION. THIS HOLDS TRUE FOR THE WRITTEN EXCERPTS SHERSHNEV CLAIMS TO HAVE RECEIVED. TFR DOCUMENTS RECEIVED BY THE U.S. SIDE OF THE U.S.-RUSSIA JOINT COMMISSION ON POW/MIAS (USRJC) HAVE SHOWN THAT SUCH BIOGRAPHICAL DATA WAS INCLUDED WHEN KNOWN. THIS ALLOWED SOVIET PERSONNEL TO ASSESS THE VALIDITY OF THE INFORMATION OBTAINED FROM AMERICAN PRISONERS BY THE NORTH VIETNAMESE.)

B. YURIY SERGEYEVICH SALUMATIN: SALUMATIN (KHARKIV, BARABASHOVA ST., 42, APT. 125, TEL: (0572) 67-63-44) SERVED IN THE DRV FROM 1964 TO

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1965. WHILE IN THE DRV, HE WAS ASSIGNED TO THE 236TH SONG DA AIR DEFENSE (AD) REGIMENT/1ST TRAINING CENTER. HE WAS TASKED WITH ENSURING THE COMBAT READINESS OF A MISSILE BATTERY AND TRAINING THE VIETNAMESE TO OPERATE THE SYSTEM.

SALUMATIN CLAIMED TO HAVE PARTICIPATED IN THE FIRST SUCCESSFUL SAM LAUNCH IN OCTOBER 1965 WHEN A BATTERY CONSISTING OF SIX MISSILE LAUNCH PLATFORMS FIRED TWO MISSILES AND SHOT DOWN AN ENEMY PLANE AT A RANGE OF 20 KILOMETERS. SALUMATIN CLAIMS HE SAW A MISSILE HIT THE PLANE AND WATCHED AS IT BEGAN TO FALL. HE DOES NOT KNOW THE FATE OF THE PILOT. HE WAS UNABLE TO RECALL ANY SPECIFICS, SUCH AS DATE, TIME, AND TYPE OF AIRCRAFT. (JCSD NOTE: ACCORDING TO RUSSIAN SOURCES, THE 236TH AD REGIMENT LAUNCHED ITS FIRST SA-2 IN MAY 1965. NORTH-VIETNAMESE PERSONNEL FROM THIS REGIMENT CONDUCTED THEIR FIRST INDEPENDENT LAUNCH OF A SA-2 ON JULY 24, 1965.)

SALUMATIN SAID CORPORAL VALERIY SMIRNOV OF KEMEROVO, RUSSIA, WAS KILLED BECAUSE HE WAS NOT WEARING HIS BATTLE HELMET. (JCSD NOTE: CPL SMIRNOV WAS KILLED ON OCTOBER 24, 1965 DURING AN AMERICAN AIR RAID. HE WAS THE FIRST SOVIET CASUALTY OF THE VIETNAM WAR. THERE WERE NO U.S. AIRCRAFT LOSSES ON THIS DATE.)

SALUMATIN PARTICIPATED IN FIFTEEN BATTLES AND CLAIMED 11 SHOOT DOWNS. HE SAID THE NORTH VIETNAMESE ARMY HAD SPECIAL TEAMS TO INVESTIGATE CRASH SITES AND JEALOUSLY GUARDED THIS PRIVILEGE. THEY WERE OFTEN IN COMPETITION WITH LOCAL AUTHORITIES AND VILLAGERS TO GET TO THE SITE FIRST, SINCE WHOEVER GOT THE DATA PLATE FROM THE PLANE GOT CREDIT FOR THE SHOOT DOWN. SALUMATIN WAS UNABLE TO PROVIDE INFORMATION REGARDING THESE OR OTHER INCIDENTS.

C. YEVGENIY NIKITICH MARICHEV, KHARKIV, SHIRONINTSEVA ST., 49-G, APT. 29, TEL: (0572) 67-70-59. MARICHEV SERVED WITH SALUMATIN (PARA B.) FROM 1965 TO 1966 AT THE 236TH SONG DA AIR DEFENSE REGIMENT/1ST TRAINING REGIMENT. HE WAS TASKED WITH ENSURING THE COMBAT READINESS OF A MISSILE BATTERY AND TRAINING THE VIETNAMESE TO OPERATE THE SYSTEM.

MARICHEV EXPERIENCED HIS FIRST COMBAT IN OCTOBER 1965. (JCSD NOTE: ARCHIVAL DOCUMENTS AND PUBLISHED ACCOUNTS OF SOVIET AIR DEFENSE PERSONNEL IN THE DRV CLAIM APRIL, 1965 AS THE FIRST TIME ANY AIR DEFENSE UNITS FIRED UPON AN AMERICAN AIRCRAFT.) HE SAW AMERICANS ON TWO OCCASIONS. THE FIRST OCCASION TOOK PLACE WHEN HE WAS EN ROUTE TO A HOSPITAL IN HANOI. WHILE DRIVING THROUGH THE CITY, HIS VEHICLE PASSED A GROUP OF AMERICAN POWS. MARICHEV COULD NOT PROVIDE INFORMATION REGARDING THE AMERICAN POWS, AS THEY SIMPLY WAVED AT ONE ANOTHER IN PASSING.

ON THE NIGHT OF AUGUST 1, 1966, A GROUP OF SOVIET SPECIALISTS WAS

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TRAVELING WITH THEIR INTERPRETER WHEN THEY CAME UPON A CAMPFIRE. A DEAD CAUCASIAN BOUND WITH ROPES AND WEARING ONLY UNDER SHORTS WAS LYING BY THE CAMPFIRE. THE VIETNAMESE INTERPRETER SPOKE WITH THE LOCALS AND LEARNED THAT THE BODY WAS THAT OF AN AMERICAN LIEUTENANT COLONEL AND SQUADRON COMMANDER THAT HAD BEEN SHOT DOWN. MARICHEV SAID THE AMERICAN APPEARED TO BE IN HIS EARLY THIRTIES, TALL (6 FEET OR MORE) AND HAD A SHORT HAIRCUT. THE VIETNAMESE DID NOT PERMIT THEM TO APPROACH THE BODY AND HE WAS UNABLE TO PROVIDE A MORE ACCURATE DESCRIPTION.

(JCSD NOTE: ON AUGUST 1, 1966 TWO F-104CS WERE SHOT DOWN [REF D., REFNO 0412 AND 0413]. CAPT JOHN CHARLES KWORTNIK, USAF [REFNO 0412] WAS FLYING NEAR AN SA-2 SITE APPROXIMATELY 30 MILES NORTHWEST OF THAI NGUYEN WHEN HE WAS SHOT DOWN BY AN SA-2 MISSILE. A PARACHUTE WAS OBSERVED, BUT ENEMY ACTIVITY PREVENTED RECOVERY OPERATIONS. CAPT KWORTNIK'S REMAINS WERE REPATRIATED ON AUGUST 14, 1985.

LT COL ARTHUR THOMAS FINNY, USAF [REFNO 0413] WAS ESCORTING AN IRON HAND SAM SUPPRESSION MISSION WHEN HIS AIRCRAFT EXPLODED IN FLAMES, A PRESUMED VICTIM OF AN SA-2 MISSILE. HIS REMAINS WERE REPATRIATED ON AUGUST 14, 1985. SINCE THE 236TH AIR DEFENSE REGIMENT WAS KNOWN TO OPERATE IN THE AREA OF FINNY'S LOSS, IT IS POSSIBLE THAT MARICHEV MAY HAVE BEEN DESCRIBING FINNY. JCSD PERSONNEL WILL COORDINATE WITH DPMO/RA [RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS] PRIOR TO CONDUCTING A FOLLOW-UP INTERVIEW OF MARICHEV.)

D. VITALIY FEDOROVICH GRES : COL (RET) GRES (KHARKIV, SUMSKAYA 48, APT. 34, TEL: (057) 700-19-47) WAS A MISSILE SYSTEMS REPAIRMAN AT THE MARSHAL GOVOROV AIR DEFENSE INSTITUTE IN KHARKOV PRIOR TO DEPLOYING TO THE DRV. IN 1967, GRES WAS SENT TO VIETNAM TO ASSIST THE VIETNAMESE IN REPAIRING MISSILE COMPLEXES DAMAGED BY AMERICAN BOMBING ATTACKS. GRES CLAIMED THE VIETNAMESE FORBODE CONTACT WITH AMERICANS, AND HE HAD NO OCCASION TO SEE ANY AMERICAN POWS. HE SAID THAT PRIOR TO BOMBING RAIDS, THE AMERICANS WOULD DROP LEAFLETS WARNING SOVIET TECHNICIANS TO GET OUT OF THE AREA. GRES CLAIMED TO

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INTERVIEW TRIP, KHARKIV, UKRAINE

BE INSTRUMENTAL IN DEVELOPING COUNTERMEASURES AGAINST AMERICAN EFFORTS TO JAM FIRE CONTROL RADARS WHICH INCREASED THE SUCCESS RATE OF SAM LAUNCHES.

(JCSD NOTE: JCSD PERSONNEL PREVIOUSLY INTERVIEWED GRES [REF C.] WHO MADE SPECIFIC CLAIMS ABOUT SEEING A DECEASED USAF LIEUTENANT COLONEL. ACCORDING TO GRES, THE OFFICER WAS A DEPUTY COMMANDER OF A USAF WING. HE ALSO CLAIMED THAT THE SOVIET UNION WAS ABLE TO OBTAIN AN F-4 PHANTOM FIGHTER FROM THE VIETNAMESE, WHICH WAS ALLEGEDLY SHIPPED

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TO THE SOVIET UNION. JCSD PERSONNEL WILL RE-CONTACT COL GRES DURING THEIR NEXT TRIP TO KHARKIV TO FOLLOW-UP ON HIS CLAIMS ABOUT THE DECEASED AMERICAN. JCSD PERSONNEL WILL COORDINATE WITH DPMO/RA PRIOR TO RE-INTERVIEWING GRES.)

E. ANATOLY LEOPOLDOVICH SOKOLOV: COL (RET) SOKOLOV (KHARKIV, DANIL EVSKOGO ST., 12, APT. 1, TEL: (057) 705-27-08), WAS SENT TO THE DRV IN 1969, WHERE HE WAS IN CHARGE OF A TEAM OF 15 TO 20 SOVIETS AIR DEFENSE ADVISORS. (JCSD NOTE: SOKOLOV WAS PROBABLY THE COMMANDER OF EITHER THE 238TH AD REGIMENT OR THE 285TH AD REGIMENT. THIS WAS THE THIRD INTERVIEW OF SOKOLOV [REFS A AND B]). SOKOLOV CLAIMED HE ATTENDED THE INTERROGATION OF TWO CAPTURED AMERICAN AVIATORS IN HANOI. SOKOLOV WAS UNABLE TO PROVIDE PHYSICAL DESCRIPTIONS OF THE POWS AND COULD NOT RECALL THE TYPES OF AIRCRAFT THEY FLEW. SOKOLOV CLAIMED HE ARRIVED AT THE INTERROGATIONS AFTER THEY WERE ALREADY IN PROGRESS. (JCSD NOTE: IN A PREVIOUS INTERVIEW WITH SOKOLOV [REF A], HE CLAIMED THE INTERROGATIONS OCCURRED AT THE SOVIET EMBASSY. DURING THIS INTERVIEW, HE CLAIMED THE INTERROGATIONS WERE CONDUCTED AT A BUILDING NEAR A POW CAMP.) SOKOLOV EXPLAINED HIS ATTENDANCE AT THE INTERROGATIONS WAS A RESULT OF HIS TASKING TO OBTAIN INFORMATION ON THE SHRIKE ANTI-RADAR MISSILE SYSTEM. SOKOLOV CLAIMED THAT HE DID NOT OBSERVE ANY PRISONER ABUSE DURING THE INTERROGATION. (JCSD NOTE: THIS CONTRADICTS PREVIOUS CLAIMS SOKOLOV MADE TO A JCSD REPRESENTATIVE. IN PREVIOUS CONVERSATIONS SOKOLOV STATED THAT KGB GOONS WERE PRESENT DURING THE INTERROGATION AND ROUGHED UP THE AMERICAN POW.) SOKOLOV FURTHER CLAIMED THAT ILYA SERGEYEVICH SHCHERBAKOV, THE SOVIET AMBASSADOR TO THE DRV, AUTHORIZED HIM TO USE FORCE IF NECESSARY TO GET THE INFORMATION HE REQUIRED. (JCSD NOTE: THERE WERE NUMEROUS UNSUCCESSFUL ATTEMPTS BY THE USRJC TO INTERVIEW SHCHERBAKOV BEFORE HE DIED IN 1996. JCSD HAS ATTEMPTED, WITHOUT SUCCESS, TO BE GRANTED ACCESS TO SHCHERBAKOV S PERSONNEL ARCHIVES. SOKOLOV S CLAIM CONTRADICTS HIS PREVIOUS STATEMENTS THAT HE WAS JUST A PASSIVE OBSERVER AND NOT DIRECTLY INVOLVED IN THE INTERROGATION. JCSD WILL RE-CONTACT COL SOKOLOV IN THE FUTURE TO FOLLOW-UP ON THESE DISCREPANCIES.). WHEN ASKED TO PROVIDE A PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION OF THE POWS, SOKOLOV CLAIMED THAT HE COULD NOT REMEMBER BECAUSE THESE INCIDENTS HAPPENED SO LONG AGO (JCSD NOTE: SOKOLOV IS 82 YEARS OLD AND RETIRED FROM THE MARSHAL GOVOROV AIR DEFENSE RADIO-ENGINEERING ACADEMY.)

F. SERAFIM YEGOROVICH ZHIGULEV, KHARKIV, PROSPEKT GEROYEV STALINGRADA, 1386, APT 54, TEL: (0572) 97-44-31. ZHIGULEV WAS A SPECIALIST ON AIRCRAFT ENGINES AT THE KHARKOV SCHOOL OF AVIATION ENGINEERING WHEN HE WAS SENT TO VIETNAM IN SEPTEMBER 1970. (JCSD

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NOTE: THIS WAS ACTUALLY THE N. ZHUKOVSKY AVIATION INSTITUTE IN KHARKOV. THE INSTITUTE WAS TASKED WITH THE DESIGN AND RESEARCH OF AIRCRAFT ENGINES, AIRCRAFT CONSTRUCTION, AIRCRAFT CONTROL SYSTEMS, AIRCRAFT RADIO-ELECTRONICS, AND ENGINEERING AND MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS. THIS INSTITUTE WORKED WITH ZHUKOVSKY MILITARY AVIATION ENGINEERING ACADEMY IN MOSCOW. BOTH INSTITUTES WOULD LIKELY HAVE RECEIVED MATERIALS AND INFORMATION REGARDING AMERICAN LOSSES IN THE VIETNAM WAR. JCSD WILL QUESTION ZHIGULEV ON THE EXTENT OF HIS INSTITUTE S INVOLVEMENT IN RESEARCH CONDUCTED ON AMERICAN TECHNOLOGY AND HARDWARE FROM THE VIETNAM WAR.)

ZHIGULEV WAS IN THE DRV FOR NINE MONTHS AND WAS LOCATED AT VIET CHI, 100 KM SOUTH OF HANOI. HIS JOB WAS TO GIVE LECTURES ON AVIATION MOTORS TO NORTH VIETNAMESE PROFESSORS. HE REPORTED TO A SENIOR PROFESSOR FROM THE ZHUKOVSKY MILITARY AIR ENGINEERING ACADEMY IN MOSCOW. HE SAID AN INTERPRETER MONITORED HIS LECTURES TO ENSURE THEY DID NOT CONTAIN ANY SOVIET PROPAGANDA, A REFLECTION OF THE IDEOLOGICAL RIFT WITH CHINA AT THE TIME. HE DID RECALL HEARING OF AN UNSUCCESSFUL U.S. ATTEMPT TO RESCUE POWS IN DECEMBER 1970. ZHIGULEV STATED HE HAD NO CONTACT WITH AMERICANS.

3. ON AUGUST 11, 2005, JCSD REPRESENTATIVES CONDUCTED INTERVIEWS OF FOUR ADDITIONAL SOVIET VIETNAM WAR VETERANS AT THE MOSCOW REGION MUSEUM OF WARRIOR-INTERNATIONALISTS IN KHARKIV:

A. YEVGENIY IVANOVICH BOGUN: COL (RET) BOGUN (KHARKIV, AKADEMIK PAVLOV ST., 309-B, APT 76, TEL: (0572) 67-27-88) DEPLOYED TO THE DRV IN SEPTEMBER 1965. HE WAS PART OF A GROUP OF 130 AIR DEFENSE SPECIALISTS SENT TO THE DRV TO TRAIN NORTH VIETNAMESE PERSONNEL. (JCSD NOTE: THIS GROUP, THE 238TH AIR DEFENSE REGIMENT/2ND TRAINING CENTER, WAS LED BY COLONEL NIKOLAY VASIL EVICH BAZHENOV, WHO RETIRED AS A GENERAL-LIEUTENANT (TWO STARS) AND HAS SINCE DIED.) BOGUN WAS ASSIGNED TO A SIX-LAUNCHER COMPLEX AT VANDE [SIC] NEAR HANOI. THE TRAINING MISSION WAS COMPLETED IN FEBRUARY 1966 AND HE WAS DEPLOYED TO DEFEND THE HO CHI MINH TRAIL UNTIL MAY 9, 1966, WITH THE MISSION OF REPAIRING MISSILE SYSTEMS BOMBED BY THE AMERICANS. ALTHOUGH THE MISSILE SITES WERE COVERED BY 18 ANTI-AIRCRAFT GUN BATTERIES, ATTACKS AGAINST THEM WERE QUITE SUCCESSFUL. BOGUN RECALLED SPECIFIC ATTACKS ON APRIL 17 AND 24, 1966. HE CLAIMED TWO AMERICAN AIRCRAFT WERE SHOT DOWN ON APRIL 22, 1966 AND ONE PILOT WAS TAKEN PRISONER. (JCSD NOTE: THE ONLY TWO LOSSES [REFNOS 0310 AND 0312] ON APRIL 22, 1966 RESULTING IN THE CAPTURE OF AMERICAN PERSONNEL OCCURRED TOO FAR NORTH OF BOGUN S CLAIMED LOCATION FOR HIM TO HAVE DIRECT KNOWLEDGE OF THEIR SHOOT DOWN AND SUBSEQUENT CAPTURE. JCSD PERSONNEL WILL COORDINATE WITH DPMO/RA PRIOR TO CONDUCTING A FOLLOW-UP INTERVIEW OF BOGUN.)

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ON MAY 9, 1966, BOGUN WAS REDEPLOYED TO HAIPHONG. AFTER AN ATTACK ON AUGUST 1, 1966, BOGUN SAID HE SAW A CAPTURED PILOT, TIED-UP AND SITTING IN ONLY HIS UNDERPANTS. BOGUN WAS NOT ALLOWED TO APPROACH THE
/***** BEGINNING OF SECTION 4 *****/

INTERVIEW TRIP, KHARKIV, UKRAINE

PILOT AND WAS UNABLE TO PROVIDE A PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION. HE SAID THAT THE PILOT WAS THE FLIGHT COMMANDER AND A LIEUTENANT COLONEL. (JCSD NOTE: SEE PARA 2 C. ENTRY FOR MARICHEV.) LATER, IN HANOI, BOGUN SAID HE SAW A GROUP OF ABOUT 20 POWS GOING TO WORK AT A FISH FACTORY.

HE WAS TOO FAR AWAY TO BE ABLE TO PROVIDE A DESCRIPTION OF ANY OF THE POWS, BUT DID STATE THE POWS WERE WEARING STRIPED CLOTHING. BOGUN MADE THE OBSERVATION THAT THE SOVIET SPECIALISTS COULD TELL WHEN A NEW GROUP OF AMERICAN PILOTS ARRIVED IN VIETNAM BECAUSE IT WAS RELATIVELY EASY TO SHOOT THEM DOWN, BUT, WITH EXPERIENCE, THE PILOTS BECAME ADEPT AT DODGING THE MISSILES. (JCSD NOTE: BOGUN HAD A WAR TIME DIARY WITH HIM DURING THE INTERVIEW. JCSD INTERVIEWERS ASKED FOR COPIES OF THE PAGES CONCERNING THE SHOOT DOWN OF AMERICAN AIRCRAFT BUT BOGUN REFUSED. JCSD WILL CONTINUE TO PRESS BOGUN FOR A COPY OF THIS DIARY WHEN THEY RETURN TO KHARKIV IN THE FUTURE.)

B. VALERIY VASIL YEVICH KORKH (KHARKIV, ARKHITEKTOROV ST., 26, APT 113, TEL (057) 338-52-28), KORKH GRADUATED FROM THE KHARKOV RADIO-TECHNICAL INSTITUTE AND INITIALLY SERVED IN THE LENINGRAD PVO DISTRICT. KORKH WAS ASSIGNED TO THE DRV FROM APRIL 1966 TO MARCH 1967. HE SPENT FROM APRIL TO JUNE 1966 TRAINING NORTH VIETNAMESE MISSILE SPECIALISTS ON COMMUNICATION SYSTEMS. AFTER TRAINING WAS COMPLETED, HE ASSISTED THE NORTH VIETNAMESE IN REPAIRING COMMUNICATION SYSTEMS UNTIL HE RETURNED TO THE SOVIET UNION IN MARCH, 1967. KORKH HAD HANDWRITTEN NOTES REGARDING HIS SERVICE IN THE DRV AND REFERRED TO THEM TO PROVIDE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION REGARDING AMERICAN AIRCRAFT SHOOT DOWN INCIDENTS:

- 1) AN F-105 ON AUGUST 14, 1966 (JCSD NOTE: ON THIS DATE FOUR F-105 AIRCRAFT WERE LOST OVER NORTH VIETNAM; SEE REFNOs 0429, 0431, AND 0432),
- 2) AN F-105 ON AUGUST 18, 1966 (JCSD NOTE: THERE WERE NO REPORTED LOSSES ON THIS DATE),
- 3) AN F-105 ON SEPTEMBER 4, 1966 (JCSD NOTE: THERE WERE TWO F-105 LOSSES ON THIS DATE; SEE REFNOs 0445 AND 0446),
- 4) FOUR PLANES SHOT DOWN ON DECEMBER 13, 1966 (JCSD NOTE: THERE IS ONLY ONE REPORTED LOSS FOR THIS DATE; SEE REFNO 0547),
- 5) DURING A BOMBING RAID ON AUGUST 7, 1966, AN F-105 PILOT WAS TAKEN PRISONER (JCSD NOTE: ON AUGUST 7, 1966 FIVE F-105 CREWMEMBERS WERE SHOT DOWN AND SUBSEQUENTLY CAPTURED [SEE REFNOs 0417, 0418, 0419].

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0420]. ALL MEN WERE RELEASED DURING OPERATION HOMECOMING ON MARCH 4, 1973.),

6) DURING AN ATTACK IN AN UNSPECIFIED PROVINCE ON JANUARY 4, 1967. DURING WHICH FOUR PLANES WERE SHOT DOWN. THERE WAS A RUMOR THAT ONE RED PARACHUTE WAS SEEN (JCSD NOTE: THERE ARE NO REPORTED LOSSES FOR THIS DATE.),

7) AND DURING AN ATTACK ON JANUARY 16, 1967, DURING WHICH ONE PLANE WAS SHOT DOWN (JCSD NOTE: ON THIS DATE, TWO AMERICAN RF4CS WERE SHOT DOWN [REFNOS 0566 AND 0568]. ONE INDIVIDUAL IN REFNO 0566 REMAINS UNACCOUNTED FOR.). HE HAD HEARD THAT AN AMERICAN LIEUTENANT WAS TAKEN PRISONER, AND A MAJOR WAS KILLED DURING THIS INCIDENT. KORKH COULD NOT PROVIDE ADDITIONAL INFORMATION NOR COULD HE RECALL WHO HAD TOLD HIM OF THE AMERICANS. HE STRESSED THAT HE WAS VERY LOW RANKING AND WAS RARELY ALLOWED TO GO TO HANOI. HE ALSO SAID THAT ANY NORTH VIETNAMESE CLAIMS REGARDING THE NUMBER OF U.S. PLANES SHOT DOWN WERE INFLATED AND SHOULD BE DIVIDED BY AT LEAST TWO.

KORKH S MOST VIVID MEMORY WAS GETTING ON THE IL-18 TO GO HOME. HIS FIRST COMBAT EXPERIENCE ALSO MADE A GREAT IMPRESSION SINCE HE WAS A COMMUNICATIONS SPECIALIST, NOT A MISSILEER. KORKH STRESSED THAT THE NORTH VIETNAMESE ABSOLUTELY FORBADE CONTACTS BETWEEN RUSSIANS AND CHINESE.

(JCSD NOTE: JCSD INTERVIEWERS ASKED KORKH FOR A COPY OF HIS NOTES AND HE REFUSED. WHEN ASKED WHERE SUCH DETAILED SHOOT DOWN INFORMATION WAS RECORDED, KORKH SAID THAT HE HAD A DIARY AT HOME. KORKH REFUSED TO GIVE JCSD REPRESENTATIVES ACCESS TO HIS NOTES SAYING HE HAD TOO MUCH PERSONAL INFORMATION IN HIS DIARY.)

C. STANISLAV VALENTINOVICH DOBRININ: DOBRININ (KHARKIV, AKADEMIK PAVLOV ST., 309-B, APT 137, TEL: (057) 65-83-68) GRADUATED FROM THE VILNIUS AIR DEFENSE ACADEMY IN 1967 AND SERVED IN THE RADIO-TECHNICAL FORCES. IN FEBRUARY 1968, DOBRININ ARRIVED IN THE DRV AS ONE OF ONLY ABOUT 25 RADIO-TECHNICAL SPECIALISTS DEPLOYED THERE. WORKING OUT OF THE KIM LIEN HOTEL NEAR NAMDAI AIRPORT, HIS JOB WAS TO REPAIR COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEMS DAMAGED IN BOMBING RAIDS. THE REPAIRS WERE CARRIED OUT AT NIGHT. DOBRININ, ON OCCASION, OBSERVED AERIAL COMBAT AND SOMETIMES SAW A PARACHUTE, BUT HE SAID ONLY THEIR OLDER BROTHERS (THE CHINESE) WERE EVER GIVEN ACCESS TO POWS. HE DID NOT HAVE CONTACT WITH AMERICAN POWS WHILE IN NORTH VIETNAM. WHEN HE WENT HOME IN MAY OF 1967, HE WAS STRUCK BY THE RUSSIANS GO HOME SIGNS DISPLAYED AT BEIJING AIRPORT. HE SAID THE SUCCESS OF THE AMERICAN BOMBING RAIDS IMPROVED IN OCTOBER 1967 FROM COUNTERMEASURES ADOPTED AFTER THE CAPTURE OF SOVIET MISSILE EQUIPMENT.

D. SERGEY ALEKSEYEVICH VARYUKHIN: COL (RET) VARYUKHIN (KHARKIV,

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DEREVYANKO ST., 3-B, APT 48, (057) 333-1031) GRADUATED FROM THE FRUNZE NAVAL ACADEMY IN LENINGRAD IN 1945. HE BECAME A NAVIGATOR IN THE BALTIC FLEET, AND ONE OF HIS FIRST DUTIES WAS UNSUCCESSFULLY SEARCHING FOR DEBRIS FROM THE APRIL 8, 1950, SHOOT DOWN OF A U.S. NAVY PB4Y2. IN 1960, HE WAS FORCED TO LEAVE THE NAVY AND TRANSFER TO THE STRATEGIC ROCKET FORCES BECAUSE OF HIS POOR EYESIGHT. HE SAID THAT AFTER THE GARY POWERS U-2 FLIGHT, NIKITA KHRUSHCHEV BECAME CONVINCED OF THE NEED FOR A STRONG MISSILE FORCE AND VARYUKHIN WAS DRAWN INTO THIS EFFORT. HE WAS SENT TO KAZAKHSTAN, UZBEKISTAN, AND KYRGYZSTAN TO BUILD THE AIR DEFENSE SHIELD. VARYUKHIN SERVED AS AN

/***** BEGINNING OF SECTION 5 *****/

INTERVIEW TRIP, KHARKIV, UKRAINE

ADVISOR TO GAMAL ABDEL NASSER IN EGYPT, AND, AS A COLONEL, WAS SENT TO HANOI AS THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE SOVIET GENERAL STAFF.

WHILE IN THE DRV, VARYUKHIN S DUTIES WERE TO RECEIVE AND ANALYZE REPORTS AND THEN REPORT TO MARSHAL MATVEY VASIL EVICH ZAKHAROV, THE SOVIET CHIEF OF THE GENERAL STAFF, AND TO THE NORTH VIETNAMESE CHIEF OF THE GENERAL STAFF. (JCSD NOTE: THIS CLAIM IS SIGNIFICANT AS IT WOULD INDICATE THAT VARYUKHIN S DIRECT REPORTING TO ZAKHAROV SKIPPED MARSHAL PAVEL FEDOROVICH BATITSKY, CHIEF OF SOVIET AIR DEFENSE, AND MARSHAL PAVEL STEPANOVICH KUTAKHOV, CHIEF OF THE SOVIET AIR FORCE. THIS COULD SIGNIFY THAT HIS REPORTING INCLUDED ALL SOVIET MILITARY ACTIVITIES IN THE DRV. AS SUCH, HE SHOULD HAVE DRAFTED AND SENT ALL MESSAGES RELATED TO THESE ACTIVITIES.) HE SAID THE BOMBING IN OPERATION LINEBACKER II WHICH BEGAN ON DECEMBER 14, 1972 WAS HORRIFIC. (JCSD NOTE: OPERATION LINEBACKER II COMMENCED ON DECEMBER 18, 1972.) HE WORKED TO PREPARE HANOI FOR THESE ATTACKS, HELPING TO EVACUATE DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS AND CIVILIANS. NONETHELESS, HE SAID, THE FRENCH AMBASSADOR WAS KILLED IN THE BOMBINGS. (JCSD NOTE: THERE ARE NO REPORTS OF ANY FOREIGN AMBASSADORS BEING KILLED BY U.S. BOMBING RAIDS IN THE DRV.) HE SAID THREE B-52S AND THREE OR FOUR OTHER PLANES WERE SHOT DOWN ON THE FIRST DAY OF LINEBACKER II. (JCSD NOTE: ON DECEMBER 18, 1972 THE USAF LOST ONE F-111 [REFNO 1952] AND ONE B-52G [REFNO 1953].) HE SAID THE ONLY DAY OF REST WAS CHRISTMAS DAY 1972.

VARYUKHIN WAS STRUCK BY THE EFFICIENCY OF AMERICAN SEARCH AND RESCUE EFFORTS. HE OBSERVED A U.S. DESTROYER COMING INTO HAIPHONG HARBOR, RESCUING A DOWNED PILOT AND THEN SAILING BACK OUT. HE SAID THE POWS WERE PURPOSEFULLY PLACED NEAR THE ELECTRIC GENERATION STATION AS HUMAN SHIELDS TO PREVENT ITS BOMBING. VARYUKHIN OBSERVED THE FIRST TRANSFER OF POWS FOR REPATRIATION IN MAY 1973. (JCSD NOTE: THE LAST TRANSFER OF POWS FROM THE DRV OCCURRED ON APRIL 1, 1973.) HE

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OBSERVED A BUS PULLING UP TO A C-130. TWENTY ONE POWS EXITED FROM THE BUS, WEARING BLUE SHIRTS AND TROUSERS AND CARRYING SUITCASES. VARYUKHIN SAID HE TRANSMITTED NO INFORMATION TO HIS SUPERIORS ON POWS. HE SAID THE ORGANS (KGB, GRU) DID THAT. HE NOTED THAT ONCE THREE SOVIET DEPUTY DEFENSE MINISTERS CAME AND TOOK AIRCRAFT FRAGMENTS BACK TO THE SOVIET UNION FOR STUDY. THESE PERSONS WERE, THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR TRANSPORTATION AND CONSTRUCTION, THE DEPUTY MINISTER FOR AVIATION, AND THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF DEFENSE (NFI).

VARYUKHIN NOTED THAT IN 1968, MISSILE DEFENSE BECAME SO POOR THAT ALL VIETNAMESE AND CHINESE SPECIALISTS WERE REMOVED FROM THE MISSILE SITES. THERE WAS A CHINESE MISSILE SITE NORTH OF HANOI AND THE VIETNAMESE COMPLAINED THAT THE CHINESE DID NOT SHOOT DOWN A SINGLE U.S. PLANE. SEVENTY PERCENT OF ALL MISSILE SPECIALISTS IN THE DRV WERE FROM THE SOVIET UNION, AND ONLY 30 PERCENT FROM CHINA. AT ONE TIME, ONLY FIFTY OF 1500 MISSILES DEPLOYED WERE OPERATIONAL. (JCSD NOTE: VARYUKHIN SERVED IN A CRITICAL POSITION WHILE DEPLOYED IN THE DRV. JCSD PERSONNEL WILL COORDINATE ANY FOLLOW-UP INTERVIEWS OF VARYUKHIN WITH DPMO/RA.)

4. THE KHARKIV VIETNAM VETERANS ORGANIZATION CONSISTS OF 93 MEMBERS. JCSD FIRST MADE CONTACT WITH MEMBERS OF THIS ORGANIZATION IN 1996. SINCE THIS TIME, SEVERAL OF THE VETERANS INTERVIEWED HAVE PROVIDED CONFLICTING INFORMATION WHEN RE-INTERVIEWED. HOWEVER, THEY CONTINUE TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL PHOTOGRAPHS AND DETAILS FROM THEIR SERVICE DURING THE WAR. IN ORDER TO SOLIDIFY A RELATIONSHIP, GAIN THEIR TRUST, AND ATTEMPT TO GAIN ACCURATE AND COMPLETE INFORMATION FROM THESE VETERANS, JCSD WILL RETURN TO KHARKIV IN NOVEMBER 2005 WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF THE VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICAN (VVA). THE VVA RUNS A PROGRAM TO ASSIST THE VIETNAMESE GOVERNMENT IN ACCOUNTING FOR ITS MORE THAN 300,000 MISSING PERSONS FROM THE WAR. THE VVA WILL CONSIDER EXTENDING AND INVITATION TO THE UKRAINIAN VETERANS TO VISIT THE UNITED STATES, SHOULD THEY DEMONSTRATE THEIR WILLINGNESS TO COOPERATE FULLY AND PROVIDE INFORMATION TO HELP RESOLVE THE FATES OF MISSING AMERICANS FROM THE VIETNAM WAR.

5. CONCLUSIONS. THIS TRIP AND PREVIOUS TRIPS HAVE PROVEN VERY BENEFICIAL TO JCSD S EFFORTS TO EXPAND ITS KNOWLEDGE OF SOVIET ACTIVITIES RELATED TO AMERICAN POWS AND THE DOWNING OF AMERICAN AIRCRAFT DURING THE VIETNAM WAR. DPMO/JCSD REPRESENTATIVES WILL CONTINUE TO PRESS UKRAINIAN GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS FOR ACCESS TO THE KHARKIV AIR UNIVERSITY S DOCUMENT COLLECTIONS. IT IS BELIEVED THESE HOLDINGS CONTAIN INFORMATION THAT COULD SHED LIGHT ON SEVERAL LOSS INCIDENTS FROM THE VIETNAM WAR. POINTS-OF-CONTACT (POC) FOR THE

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